



CXXI

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Leaves of Healing

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An Evangelical Protestant Church

Headquarters — Zion, Illinois 60099, U.S.A.

Tim and Luann Kuehl to South Africa

Tim and Luann Kuehl have been accepted as Christian Catholic Church missionaries to serve in southern Africa with the AmaZioni people, under the Zion Mission. They expect to leave South Africa early in 1986, and will spend most of their first year in language study. We rejoice in this journey to five years of praying toward them, and we commend Tim and Luann to your earnest prayer. As their support will be from the Christian Catholic Churches, we commend our missions outreach and financial support to your prayer interest also.

The Administrative Council, along with Edgar Mahon, Superintendent of the Mahon Mission, met with Tim on September 13th to listen to his defence of the faith and to question him concerning areas of doctrine and practice. I am happy to report that we were pleased at his answers and the maturity he demonstrated in his faith, his relationship to Christ and to others, and his maturity of judgment. We feel confident that God has uniquely set apart Tim and Luann for this particular ministry and we rejoice in their fellowship in the Gospel. The following is a personal testimony from Timothy Kuehl.

Testimony of Timothy Kuehl

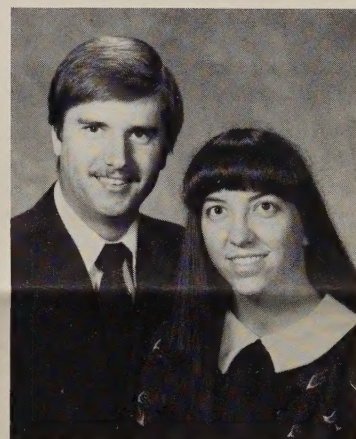
I was born into a missionary family. My parents were missionaries to Japan. Two brothers and a sister were born in Japan. I, however, was born in the

United States during one of their furloughs. Shortly after my birth, my dad was asked to work at the TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois. He accepted and I grew up in Elmhurst, a western suburb of Chicago.

I recall that at a very early age I was afraid to die. I didn't know what would happen if I died. I was always taken to church as a child and our home was a place where God was honored. One Sunday evening the Lord really spoke to me through the pastor's message. That evening I asked my mother to explain to me how I could be saved, and I accepted Jesus Christ into my life as my Savior.

During my latter years of high school, I began to think about what I should do with my life. I had no desire for any specific vocation. God led me to the most important decision of my life—to yield my life to Him for service—however and wherever He would lead. It made sense that if Christianity were true, then the only thing that really mattered was to serve my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This led to my attending Moody Bible Institute as I felt the Bible training would help in my goal of serving Christ.

I graduated from M. B. I. in 1978, and that summer I went overseas with T.E.A.M. for a summer missionary experience. I had asked them to choose where I should go, and they sent me to South Africa. After this experience, the



Lord showed me step by step that He wanted me in full-time missionary work.

Next I attended Northern Illinois University and was involved in the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. It was there that I met a Zion girl named Luann Wimmer. Luann was born and raised in Zion and in the Christian Catholic Church. Our first date was the same week that Pastor Ottersen announced, in 1980, that the church was praying for a couple to send to South Africa by 1985. The following summer Luann served overseas with Student Training in Missions. She also had asked the organization to place her wherever they felt best, and they sent her to South Africa, just 50 miles from where I had served previously.

We were married on August 28, 1982, and I began my studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. We both knew the Lord wanted us overseas as full-time missionaries, but we did not know with whom. Over the course of the next three years, the Lord confirmed to us that He wanted us in South

Africa as Christian Catholic Church missionaries under the Mahon Mission to work among the AmaZioni, the people of Zion.

I have just completed the work in the three year degree program at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and am looking forward to ordination on the final day of Convocation, October 6, 1985. We look forward with eager anticipation to that day when we shall arrive and begin our work in South Africa. Pray for us!

Tim Kuehl

In Memoriam

Mrs. John (Lola Mae) Meredith, nee Bennett. April 8, 1985, in Illinois.

Mrs. Paul (Ruth) Mischler, nee Schwager, July 18, 1985, in Zion.

Mrs. Morris W. (Minnie M.) Ward, nee Duske, August 12, 1985.

Mrs. Julian (Lucy) Krenn, nee Reiman, August 29, 1985, in Zion.

Mr. Richard Cutler, September 5, 1985, in North Chicago.

Mrs. Alfred (Emily) Pratt, nee Sumner, September 9, 1985, in Zion.

Mr. Arthur O. Capp, Sr., September 10, 1985, in Zion.

Mrs. Victor (Mary) Johnson, nee Sweeney, September 13, 1985, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with burial in Zion.

Mr. Vernon Thompson, Oct. 1, 1985, in Zion.

New Mission Directory

The new "Christian Catholic Church - Around the World" Mission Directory is now available. This 95 page booklet features information on all of our mission work and workers world-wide.

These booklets were presented as a part of Convocation '85, and have been well received.

If you desire a copy, write us, including \$1.00 for each booklet desired:

Christian Catholic Church
Dowie Memorial Drive
Zion, Illinois 60099

Miracles and the Mission of the Church

by Earl L. Minton

In the Global Prayer Digest, a daily prayer guide for unreached peoples, for September 13, 1985, an account is given of a number of Muslims coming to Christ through the demonstration of God's power in healing. The article was as follows:

"Ye Ellin's joyous shouts echoed through the crowd and into the wooden homes of the Muslim village where she lived. She had been a bit afraid to go to the meetings of the Christians, but once there, the believers had prayed for her salvation and healing and Ye Ellin's back was instantly straight! Other Muslims also asked God to forgive their sins and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. Many of those who were sick or lame were healed of their illnesses. That night, just a few months ago, 35 Muslims accepted Christ on Manubol Island.

"Nearly half of the island's 5,000 Tausug and Samal-speaking Muslims came to that meeting. It was led by Reynato Elid, superintendent of the Sulu-Tawi-Tawi district of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines. There is great spiritual darkness on Manubol. As Rev. Elid began to sing and preach in the Tausug language, the Muslim islanders were cautious, but listened carefully. Who was this Jesus of whom he spoke? When the sick were healed, the air became electric with amazement and wonder.

"Various Christian leaders now hold regular Bible studies and prayer meetings on Manubol Island. They report that the new believers are greatly encouraged by the completion of the Tausug New Testament, only recently available. Throughout the islands, the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church is working towards a goal of two million members and 20,000 churches by the year 2000."

What is happening on Manubol Island is being experienced in many other areas of the world. God seems to be pouring out His Spirit in unusual power across our world—and no wonder, for He is so eager to see men saved—and the time is short. So binding is the Muslim faith on its adherents that without such a mighty demonstration of the power and grace of God, giving validity to His messengers, few would

give heed to the Gospel. What is true of the Muslim faith may be said of other religious faiths as well. All false religions are part of the blindness and darkness of this world in opposition to the light of the Gospel of Christ.

Yet, we should not be surprised at the mighty works of God accompanying the preaching of the Gospel. In every instance where Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the Gospel, He promised them the power of God to validate their message. The first time Jesus sent forth His disciples is recorded in Matthew 10. What we know as "*The Great Commission*" is given in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21, 22; and Acts 1:8. As the Scriptures are consistent and the first use of a word or event is instructive of the future uses of the word or similar event, let us turn our attention to the first time Jesus sent forth His disciples to preach. The account begins in Matthew 9:35, and we read:

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they were faint, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

"Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.

"Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.

"And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power (authority) against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not;

"But go, rather, to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons; freely ye have received, freely give."

—Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8

I'm sure our hearts have often been stirred and challenged by these words of

Lord, and by His great concern for the lost. Sheep, He called them, for like sheep, lost men cannot find their way to God. They must be sought. While Jesus was on earth, He did this. "He came to seek and to save that which was lost." Jesus personally visited the area cities, towns and villages, preaching the Kingdom of God and healing the sick and casting out demons. He set the example, then commanded His disciples to do as He did.

In His ministry, Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons? How did He do it? This may seem a strange question, but we all recognize that Jesus was the Son of God and the Creator and sustainer of all He created. Yet we must recognize that when Jesus came into this world, He emptied Himself of His glory as God, and while He remained God, in His humiliation, He came as a man and servant of men. As a man, He totally depended upon God the Father for guidance, power and authority for all that He said and did, and this was given to Him by the Holy Spirit. Note the following Scriptures that teach this. The importance of this fact is that we receive guidance, wisdom, power and authority by the same Holy Spirit as we are in obedience to Christ and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

"...as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." — John 8:28

"I speak that which I have seen and heard with my Father..." — John 3:38

"Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." — John 7:16

"...The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works." — John 14:10

"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you." — Matthew 12:28

The heart of Jesus—and of the Father and the Holy Spirit—is for the lost to be saved. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." The intensity of His love and longing for a lost world is far beyond our understanding.

The Apostle Paul felt something of that love for the lost of his own people expressed in Romans 9:1-3:

"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

"That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

"For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

All who truly love the Lord must feel something of that desire for the lost to be saved. This concern often becomes a heavy burden when it is a dear loved one who is away from God.

It was His great love for the lost that compelled Jesus to leave heaven and to come to this earth "to seek and to save that which was lost," and to take upon Himself the sins of the world—that all who put their trust in Him may be saved. The miracles He performed, though done out of the compassion of His heart for the suffering ones, also validated His message. Jesus said, "*But I have greater witness than that of John (the Baptist); for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*" — John 5:36

When Jesus sent out his twelve disciples, He sent them to preach the kingdom of God, which is, the personal rule of God in the life of each believer. And, of course, the entrance into the kingdom is by the new birth (John 3:1-21). He also gave them power to heal the sick and authority to cast out demons. They preached as He preached and performed miracles as He did.

When Jesus was ready to return to heaven after completing His ministry here on earth, and following His death and resurrection for our sins, He commissioned them to be witnesses to the world. That Great Commission is given five times in Scripture as noted previously. Let us look more closely at some of these statements: In John 20:21, 22, we read:

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my father hath sent me, even so send I you."

"And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit."

How did the Father send Jesus? In humility, but with God's message and with God's power. How does Jesus send us? In humility (for we have nothing to offer of ourselves), yet with His message and authority.

"...All authority is given unto me in heaven and earth."

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

"Teaching them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."

— Matthew 28:18-20

What Jesus commanded the disciples to do, He gave them power to do. We have only to turn to the book of Acts to see this. Jesus had appeared to His disciples after His resurrection off and on for a period of 40 days. Following His ascension, the disciples, along with other believers, met for prayer in expectation of the promise that power would be given them from God to enable them to witness to an unbelieving world concerning Christ. On the Day of Pentecost—in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Leviticus 23:15-21), the Holy Spirit came upon each believer in the unique way of enabling them to speak in the languages of all the Jews present in Jerusalem from various countries "*the wonderful works of God.*" — Acts 2:8-11

Peter, then, used this as an occasion to preach Christ to the people and three thousand believed and were baptized. We also read of the days following that occasion: "*Fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*" — Acts 2:43. As we continue in the book of Acts (which is not just the Acts of the apostles but the Acts of Jesus Christ through the apostles), we see the Holy Spirit enabling the apostles to perform many miracles which gave validity to the message and led many to believe the Gospel.

Did miracles cease with the passing of the apostles? Many say, "Yes!" Many Bible schools and seminaries teach that we are not to expect to see miracles today, nor should we pray for the sick and expect them to recover, for miracles were for a limited time only—before we had the New Testament Scriptures. Now that we have the Scriptures, we no longer need or should expect miracles.

Oh, how we limit God by our unbelief. Why would Paul, in writing to the Corinthian (Gentile) church declare the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the ministry and building up of the church if it were all to pass when he died? Why would James tell the church that if any were sick, they should call for the elders of the church for prayer in order that they might be healed, if God only intended it for a very few years? The Scriptures are God's Word for the church for all time. The interesting and amazing thing is that where the Scriptures are only recently translated into the language of the people, and where they

have not had the opportunity to receive the kind of Bible school training that might destroy their faith, they take God at His word, trust Him, and see the miracles happening—and who is surprised? Often it is the missionary, not the people who have only recently come out of darkness to the light of God's Word.

Down through the centuries, where people have trusted Christ and believed His word, miracles have often occurred—for God delights to do good things for His people, and in His compassion, He has heard and answered prayer for them.

Miracles were also often commonplace during times of revival. When the hearts of people are set on fire for God, and sin put away, faith to believe God for great things is evidenced. However, it should be remembered that the authority to cast out demons will be more in evidence in those areas of the world more in spiritual darkness, where Satan's power has been stronger.

He was Lost and is Found

by the Rev. John Alexander Dowie

Quoted in whole from the Leaves of Healing of September 28, 1894.

The beautiful story from which these words are taken has been truly called "the Crown and Pearl of Jesus' parables." It touches the chords of all hearts, and tells to every age the story of our Eternal Father's love for every wanderer and prodigal who returns with repentance from the "far country" of darkness, despair, and death. No angry reproaches, no reluctant forgiveness, meets the heart-broken penitent when he seeks his Father's face and humbly asks to be allowed the meanest servant's place. The tears of joy and the kiss of love and peace are followed by the command, "*Bring forth quickly the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.*" — Luke 15:11-24.

Twenty years ago I stood near the corner of a central street in Sydney, Australia, late at night. My heart was filled with pity and love for the crowds of young men who were going in and out of a gaily-decorated and brightly-lighted public-house. Laughter and curses, snatches of songs, and coarse, filthy conversation, amidst the foul atmosphere of filthy tobacco smoke and

There are two reasons why I believe we are seeing today, in many areas of the world, and should expect to see a great increase in the demonstration of God's power in answer to prayer for healing, etc. First, we see in many areas, in our country and more so in many other areas of the world—a burden to pray for revival and the mighty working of God in salvation of the lost. When God wants to do a great work, He first lays the burden of prayer for that work on the hearts of some of His people, then answers that prayer in a mighty manifestation of His grace and power. Secondly, I believe that because the time is short before Jesus returns and the day of grace closes, God is manifesting Himself in signs and wonders to encourage faith in Christ.

As in the days of the apostles, it was the visible evidence of the power of God that turned many to Christ, so I believe it will be in our day. Let us pray to that end.

the fumes of alcohol, greeted my senses, with their disgusting repulsiveness.

Here, indeed, were the prodigals "wasting their substance with riotous living." Here were the swine troughs indeed, and the stinking husks of sin, with which these foolish ones were vainly trying to satisfy the quenchless thirst of their fiery passions. "O God can I not rescue one?" I cried in my unspoken agony, as I looked upon the scene. Standing in the shadow of a large building, a bank, I could see the faces of those who stood in the glare of the light streaming forth from the windows and door of that house of death.

Presently, I saw a miserable-looking man stand and look at its doors, on whose face there was an inexpressible look of speechless anguish and despair. He passed on, and passed me, looking furtively at me as he did so. I prayed once more, "O Eternal Father, help me to rescue one;" and I felt that moment that my prayer would be answered. Again and again the man passed and repassed me, and again and again I asked the Good Shepherd to show me how to win this outcast, wandering sheep. Suddenly he stopped, and said in a voice broken with emotion, "Oh, sir, for God's sake give me a shilling; for I am starving and dying."

A few kindly-put questions, and I got his story, in part at least. Here was the youngest son of one of Scotland's greatest men, whose father lay at that moment dead in Edinburgh; for a

Now for a word of caution:

Our goal in life must never be to see for manifestations of God's power. Our goal must always be to be obedient to the next thing God tells us, and to live a godly life in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must recognize that God gives to the church spiritual gifts as He sees fit. We are not to desire the gifts which are more likely to "put up," but to "build up." We are to recognize that the most winning and powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit is in love for one another (1 Corinthians 12:31, 7).

On the other hand, as we attempt great things for God, we should expect great things from God. Rather than explaining away His promises, we are to claim them and trust God to work His will in the salvation of the lost and the care of His children. He does delight to do exceeding abundantly above all we could ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20)

cablegram in the previous day's "Morning Herald" had announced his death. But from those now cold and silent lips the last prayer of the dying Christian hero had been, "O my Father, save my poor wandering boy—O my Saviour, bring my son into thy fold—oh, save John, save John!" And now the widow bends her knee, and honored sons and daughters join her in prayer—"O, save John!" And away from the chamber of grief, away up to the throne of Eternal Love, the petitions wing their way. And this is the answer! Down into my poor heart, the Spirit pours the peace and the love, which has led me to be here at this moment, nearly at the midnight hour; and here the wanderer stands, broken-hearted, weeping penitent, when he cries, "Oh, my father is lying dead yonder in Edinburgh, and I have killed him; for my sin has broken his heart."

"Surely God is good;" yea, He is, for "God is love." His love is breaking up this poor, friendless, ragged, dirty, hungry, despairing prodigal, who has gone far away from home, and plunged deeply into sin. And, let me tell the sequel in a few words, although it was weeks and months before I could be sure of the issue—"He was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." I have before me, as I write these lines, his mother's letter of thanks to me, his brother's also, an eminent Scotch professor; and upon a memorial volume of his father's life, I read that widow's mother's inscription of gratitude, dated "Edinburgh, July 29th, 1874." I never

personally knew that good and great
in the flesh; but as I turn over the
pages which he wrote, I find these
words:—

"What a spirit-stirring thought is this!
sowing, and another reaping; and
with rejoicing together! What an
animating prospect! To meet in the
arms above, and take sweet counsel on
that we have together done for the
glory of God and the good of souls!"
is indeed a glorious prospect, and one
which earth and time and man can
offer nothing so precious. How blessed
for us to meet in "the happy home
above," and rejoice together in the fact
that, almost ere his spirit had reached
the city of God, his prayer was
answered, and the wanderer brought
back.

This story has some important lessons
for many classes of my kind readers.

Christian fathers and mothers, it
urges you never to despair of the
redemption of your unconverted children.
It may be that it will only be your last
sighing breath's prayer that will be
followed by their conversion. Alas! alas!
for them, if it be so, for what shall be
their anguish then, as they look upon
their long-despised father's or mother's
dead face, as their bodies lie all still and
cold and silent? But, godly parents, be
of good cheer. "For the promise is un-
to you, and to your children and to all
that are afar off, even as many as the
Lord our God shall call." — Acts 2:39.
Believe "the promise," believe "the pro-
mise," plead "the promise," never give
up, and, like the man of God of whom
I have told you, the gracious answer will
be sent.

Prodigal sons and daughters, it
urges you that the way of trans-
gressors is hard. Bitter are the sorrows
of the sinner who seeks for satisfaction
in sin. As well might you try to quench
your thirst by drinking the waters of the
salt sea.

Despairing sinner, it brings you hope.
The same God who pitied and saved
John C. is able and willing to save thee;
for Jesus died for thee.

*"Tenderly the Shepherd
O'er the mountain cold,
Goes to bring his lost one
Back to the fold."*

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my
peace I give unto you:

Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid."

—John 14:27

Directory of Ministers

of the Christian Catholic Church
October, 1985

Administrative Council

Roger W. Ottersen,
General Overseer
Earl L. Minton
Hugh Mainord
James Petreman, Jr.
Lay Representative

Pastoral Ministers Assigned

Earl L. Minton
Clark B. Offner
Roger Ottersen
Noel Smith
Bernard Reimer
Dean Matteson
Hugh Mainord
Gene Clymer
Edgar Mahon
Donald Prout
Timothy Kuehl

General Council

Roger W. Ottersen
Earl L. Minton
Clark B. Offner
*G. William Mason
Noel Smith
Bernard Reimer
Dean Matteson
Hugh Mainord
Gene Clymer
Edgar Mahon
Pat Hermosilla
James Harichand

Eligible for General Overseer

Roger W. Ottersen
Earl L. Minton
Clark B. Offner
G. William Mason
Hugh Mainord
Noel Smith
Dean Matteson
Edgar Mahon

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John MacKenzie
Canada:
Samuel Harrichand
Richard Harrichand
Terry Ramkelawan
Paul O. Ramsarran
Victor Solomon

Guyana:
James Harichand
Edward Pollard

Israel:

Daher Nassar
George Nassar

Japan:

Shozaburo Tomita

Philippines:

Constancio Balili
Manolo Borela
Paquito Borela
Victor Casabal
Policarpo Dullano
Raleigh Dullano
Pat Hermosilla
Jose Masaglang
Waling Masaglang
Claro Mateo
Ely Mercado
Rosalio Pado
Eulalio Trinidad
Nestor T. Ugsad

United Kingdom:

Arthur Murton

United States:

Navajo Reservation:
Jerry Begay
Roy Tate

Southern Africa:

The work of the C.C.C. in South-
ern Africa is under the direction
of the Mahon Mission, Rev. Edgar
Mahon, Superintendent.

Preparatory Ministers and/or Commissioned

Timothy Allen
Randolph Capp
Robert Gustafson
Dean LaBelle
Douglas LaBelle
LeRoy Nez
Dale Stewart

Retired Ministers

Leland Barton (U.S.A.)
Eric Gray (Guyana)
Michael Khayat (U.S.A.)
Carl Q. Lee (U.S.A.)
Theodore Mason (U.S.A.)
Jabez Taylor (U.S.A.)
Raymond Uren (Australia)

Pastoral Ministers are listed in order of
ordination. Parish, Preparatory, and re-
tired Ministers are listed alphabetically.

* Under Special Assignment

Mahon Missionary Conference

Held at the Christian Catholic Church
September 19-21, 1985



We praise the Lord for His rich blessings on the Mahon Missionary Conference of September 19-21. We were privileged to have as our main speaker, Rev. Edgar Mahon, Superintendent of the Mission, who, with his wife, 'Netta, had been in the United States for some weeks doing research. Each night he shared along the theme: "In His Love - Reach Out." On Thursday night, Rev. Mahon had the joy of introducing three others to the Conference: Rev. Edmund Kandume, former AmaZioni minister and now Mahon Mission pastor at Oshakati in Namibia (South-West Africa), and Tim and Luann Kuehl of the Christian Catholic Church, Zion, who will be joining the Mahon Mission early in the new year to work among the

AmaZioni, following language study.

A slide presentation on Friday night helped in visualizing of the missionaries and pastors and something of the scope of the work. Saturday night was "fellowship night" with a potluck supper and testimony time.

For all who attended, the Conference was a time of inspiration and challenge. Though the needs of the Mission were only briefly presented, we would commend to your prayer and support the present building needs at the headquarters in Etembeni—particularly that of a new kitchen. Pray for the missionaries and for the Kuehls who will leave for South Africa early in the new year.

Time to Think Stewardship

If we give what's left over, the church neither feeds us spiritually, or anyone else.

If we give "dues", the church will be no more than a club to us.

If sentimental preservation of the past is our reason, then the church will be like a museum.

If we give the same as we always have, we can only expect declining returns.

If we give out of obligation, we will always resent what we have to do.

If we give only because we feel responsible, the church will be a heavy burden.

If we give out of compassion for those whose needs are greater than our own, our needs will seem so much smaller.

If we are thankful, the church will reflect the measure of our gratitude.

If love leads us in selfless giving, the church may well become the place where we discover the joy of Christ's presence.

— Lutheran Church of The Atonement,
Barrington, IL

Heavenly Promises

As morning gilds the sky
I thank you, Lord,
for the miracles
you have planned for me today.
The leaves on the trees
look afire as the sun
kisses and touches
each leaf in its own special way,
Just as you, my Lord,
miraculously touch
each of us in your
own special way.
To those who are discouraged
you offer hope.
To those who lack direction
you give guidance.
To those who feel guilty
your forgiveness is at hand.
To those whose goal is to
accept your beliefs and have faith,
your promise of inner peace
and everlasting life prevails.
Thank you for always
keeping your promises —
whether it be a crisp, clear morning,
a sunny, scorchy noon,
or a peaceful, cool evening.
Your promises are daily
miracles that sustain,
carry, and lift each
one who allows.

—Diane Yeutter

The Double Clasp

"Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand...and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

— John 10:28, 29

The Saviour's hand—how close
its hold

That none can loosen, none can
break

No powers of heaven or earth or
hell

That loving clasp can never
shake.

And over Jesus' wounded hand
The Father's hand of strength is
laid,

Omnipotent to save and keep;
Thus is our surety surer made.

So, one beneath and one above
Father and Son their hands unite
How safe, how safe the ran-
somed are

Within that clasp of tender
might!

—Annie Johnson Flint

Flint's Best Loved Poems,
Evangelical Pub., Used with
permission.

Comments Which Thrill a Pastor's Heart

"We were just getting ready to leave church when company came — so brought them with us."

"I know it looks impossible, but with God's help we can do it."

"Of course I'll accept that responsibility. It will be a privilege."

"I'll be willing to help in any way I can."

"God was really speaking to me through you during the service."

"I'll be glad to help you visit."

—First Christian Church,
Lockhart, TX



Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School was one of the best we have ever experienced. The teachers and workers had worked hard to prepare the lessons, visual aids, decorations, and crafts. It was backed by much prayer and God gave the blessing. The number made professions of faith and there was great attentiveness to the lessons and the hiding of God's Word in their hands and hearts. We were blessed with volunteer workers for the 240 students. Praise the Lord!



All Church School teachers are just as much called of God as are missionaries in the heart of Africa. They need to prepare just as diligently — they need to labor just as earnestly — as if they are carrying the Gospel to the most remote spot on the globe.

— Calvary Tabernacle,
McKenzie, TN

Testimony of Laurie (Mrs. Dan) Schleiter

August, 1985



During the summer of 1978, I felt there needed to be a change in our home and in my own personal life. I invited Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life—and He did. For the first time, taking Communion really meant something to me. Words of hymns came alive with new meaning.

I had the opportunity to share these things with my mom before she went to be with the Lord on January 5, 1979, at my sister's home where we were caring for her. My mom and I were very close and for a year following her home-going, life was very difficult for me.

As a high schooler, growing up in the church, I was baptized along with some others, but it held little meaning for me. Following my conversion I desired to be baptized again as a personal testimony to my faith in Christ. This took place at Easter time in 1979. It was a beautiful experience that I will never forget.

On January 8, 1980, I was faced with major surgery. My quick recovery amazed the doctors, but I knew it was in answer to the prayers of many of God's people. When I returned home, relatives and friends cared for me, bringing in tasty meals, until I had regained my full strength. I am grateful for the better health I now enjoy. During my time of illness, Isaiah 43:1, 2 became very precious to me:

"...Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

June 2nd, 1980 was a hard day for all in my family, for on that day, my brother took his own life. Through that I've had to learn that each person is responsible for his own actions. The loving response of so many really helped me through that.

I had hoped to be with my mom when she died, but that did not work out. A few of our family members and myself had been with my dad when he passed away at the St. Theresa Hospice on November 16, 1981, and it meant a lot to be there with him. Counsellors at the Hospice kept in touch with me every three months for the next four years, which I greatly appreciated.

During the last two weeks of January, 1983, I was hospitalized for severe depression. Prior to this I had found myself turning away from the Lord, my family and my friends. Following my release from the hospital, I managed to remain home for three months, then had to return to the hospital for another four and a half weeks. My father-in-law passed away on June 3rd, the day before I came home. After returning home I still found it difficult to cope with the losses of loved ones, the frequent illnesses of our daughters and other difficult circumstances, so found it necessary to continue with counselling for another three years.

As I look back over my life I am thankful that I was raised in a Christian home. I am also very grateful for the support received from the pastors and members of the church when I needed them. I strongly believe in the power of prayer. Many prayers have been answered through many family illnesses and I have appreciated the various ways people have shown their love during these hard times. The Lord has been so gracious and patient and has turned my darkness to light and my sorrows to joy.

What a blessing it has been to be a part of the Sanctuary Choir since 1983, Zion Passion Play since I was young, and to substitute teach in Sunday School. I am now also leading a large weekly Ladies Bible Class and enjoying it. I am learning the truth of Philippians 4:13:

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."

It is easy to dodge our responsibilities. But we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities.

Testimony of Edmund H. Kandume of Southwest Africa

As given to Rev. Earl Minton on September 25, 1985 at the Christian Catholic Church, Zion, Illinois

I was converted to Christ through the ministry of the Christian Catholic Church of Zion in Port Elizabeth, and was baptized by them in March, 1957. At the time of my conversion, and until 1969, I was working for a metal box company in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

From the time of my conversion, I had a desire to serve the Lord, so I began witnessing and preaching wherever there was opportunity. Four years later, I was ordained as an evangelist, giving me authority for all the work of the ministry with the exception of conducting the Lord's Supper or officiating at weddings. Of course, officiating at weddings would have also required a special government license. In 1969, I was ordained into the full ministry.

While serving in the ministry at Port Elizabeth, I became interested in finding out all I could about the Christian Catholic Church in Zion of South Africa. I was also concerned because I saw no representation from the headquarters coming to visit as was common in other denominations. I began to wonder about how our church got started, and who was our present head, and where our headquarters was located. I made a trip to Johannesburg to visit our bishop to find out all the information I could. From him I learned that the headquarters was in Zion City, Illinois, and that the official representative was a Mr. Arnold Mellor of Capetown. This led to a visit to Arnold Mellor in Capetown, getting the address of the headquarters in Zion, Illinois, and from them being put into contact with the Mahon Mission, which body I later united with.

In 1969, God used South African immigration policies to send us to Namibia (South West Africa), to an area not far from the Angolan border, now known as Owambo. Through the intervention of friends, I was able to acquire a government home in Oshakati. I immediately set about preaching in this town but saw little interest.

One day, I was talking to a lady who was greatly distressed. Her fifteen year old daughter had a disease that rendered her unable to walk. I spoke to the lady

from Matthew 8, showing Jesus as the Healer in answer to faith. I went and prayed for the girl and she was healed. Word quickly spread about this and many others came for prayer and some were healed. This created interest in the Gospel and a church was born.

In 1972, Alfred, Edgar and Lyle Mahon came to my aid in ministry and later were able to get approval for a church site from the government, and with their help, and that of the Baptist Union, a lovely church building was erected.

From Oshakati, the work spread so that we now have two branches in Ombata and Okawa, near to the Angolan border. During 1974 and 1975, I made four trips up into Angola, visiting and preaching in village after village and had the joy of seeing literally hundreds come to faith in Christ. Many of these, it was also my privilege to baptize. On my fourth visit, I was accompanied by the Mahons in October of 1975, to areas not yet effected by the Civil War, which had begun a little prior to this.

Though prevented from returning to Angola for ministry, we were enabled by God and the help of many others, to feed and clothe many Angolan refugees who settled in camps near the Angolan and South West African border.

We praise God for His faithfulness, enabling us to minister in many areas to make Jesus Christ known. We thank God for the fellowship of the Mahon Mission, and my heart is now full at being able to visit our headquarters church in Zion, Illinois, and of meeting our beloved General Overseer Roger W. Ottersen, and the other ministers and members.

Pray for us. We have many needs which we trust that God will supply as He sees fit. Our only desire is to serve him. God has also given me a faithful wife, who has served with me in the ministry, and we rejoice together in the goodness of God. Amen.

1985 Watchword

*"I will say of the Lord
He Is My Refuge
and My Fortress"*

Psalm 91:2

Psalm 91 is Zion's Household Psalm

A Teacher's Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, Master Teacher, Guide and Friend.

Thank you for calling me to teach in Your Church.

Help me in my thoughts to honor you, in my life to show faith in you, and may my words be acceptable to you.

Make my life count for you, and may those I teach come to love you as I love you.

Thank you for the joy of knowing you and of making you known.

Amen.

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones who believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

— Matthew 18:1-6

Frequently the most difficult things in life are also the most important and pay the biggest dividends:

- To apologize;
- To admit an error;
- To take advice;
- To forgive and forget;
- And to be diligent in all things.

Lord, Give Us More Caleb's

In Joshua 14, we read of Caleb's zeal in service at the age of 85. He wasn't ready to retire and give up service for God. We need more who see "retirement" as an opportunity to give more time to serve the Lord. There is so much that could be done and there is the opportunity for joy in fulfillment in glad service to the King.